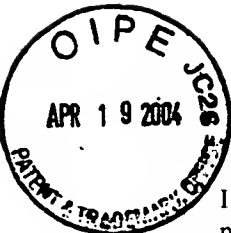


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Jodi A. Calderon
Jodi A. Calderon

Date

4-15-04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Don Vaughan et al

Art Unit: 3753

Serial No. 09/998,060

Examiner: Stephen M. Hepperble

Filed: November 30, 2001

Confirmation No.: 5496

For: *Quiet Flow Control Washer for Water Softener or the Like*

Attorney Docket: 31.043

Customer No.: 23598

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

APR 23 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 25, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 13 of this paper.